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281540Z Sep 92

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ZAGREB 01854

SIPDIS

USVIENNA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 12356: N/A
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SUBJECT: CGYOOL -- ZAGREB UPDATE: SEPT 28, 1992

SUMMARY

¶1. AS UN/EC PEACE ENVOYS VANCE AND OWEN MET WITH CROATIAN AUTHORITIES IN ZAGREB LAST FRIDAY, THE COUNTRY'S PARLIAMENT ERUPTED INTO DEBATE OVER THE PASSAGE OF A LAW GRANTING AMNESTY TO SOME OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR SERBIA AGAINST CROATIA. A SECOND SESSION OF CROATIA'S NEW NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL APPROVED THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE MILITARY COOPERATION WITH B-H. LOCAL
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GOVERNMENTS HAVE ORDERED THE FIRST GROUP OF REFUGEES TO LEAVE THEIR TEMPORARY RESIDENCES IN HOTELS AND RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN THE PINK ZONE AROUND SIBENIK. ETHNIC CLEANSING REPORTEDLY CONTINUES IN THE BARANJA AREA (SECTOR EAST). DESPITE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO PRIVATIZE REMAINING PUBLIC-OWNED ENTERPRISES, FEWER THAN ONE-QUARTER HAVE BEEN SOLD THUS FAR. A COURT-ORDERED SEARCH UNCOVERED LARGE AMOUNTS OF EXPLOSIVES AND ARMS AT THE DOWNTOWN ZAGREB PARTY HEADQUARTERS OF ULTRA-RIGHTIST LEADER PARAGA. OVER THE WEEKEND, ALL LOCAL PAPERS GAVE WIDE COVERAGE TO THE LATEST U.S. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ATROCITIES IN B-H.

CROATIAN SABOR PASSES AMNESTY LAW

¶2. DURING THE SECOND AND FINAL DAY OF ITS LATEST SESSION (ON SEPTEMBER 25), CROATIA'S SABOR PASSED THE AMNESTY LAW PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT TUDJMAN AFTER SOME STORMY DEBATES. THE LEGISLATION EXCUSES ALL THOSE WHO FOUGHT AGAINST CROATIA BUT DID NOT COMMIT WAR CRIMES. THE LOCAL PRESS NOTED THAT THE ACTION WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE VANCE-OWEN MEETINGS IN ZAGREB TO PROVE THAT CROATIA IS DOING ITS PART TO REESTABLISH PEACE IN CROATIA.

¶3. MOST OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WERE AGAINST THE MEASURE. CROATIAN NATIONAL PARTY AND SOCIAL LIBERAL PARTY LEADERS CALLED THE LAW ONE-SIDED, AND
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EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT IT CAN BE EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTERED. THE CROATIAN PEASANT PARTY SUGGESTED POSTPONING ENACTMENT OF THE LAW, SINCE SERBIAN FORCES CONTINUE DAILY BOMBARDMENTS OF CROATIAN TOWNS PARTICULARLY IN SLAVONIA. ULTRA-RIGHT LEADER DOBROSLAV PARAGA ASSERTED THE LAW IS AN

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INFO	LOG-00	AGRE-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CEA-01	CIAE-00	PFIP-01
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	EXME-00	E-01	FRB-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01
	IO-19	ITC-01	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-08	PA-02	PM-01	PRS-01
	P-01	RP-10	SCT-03	SDEL-01	SIL-01	SNP-01	SP-01
	SR-01	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-18	TRSE-00	T-01	/102W

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FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2195
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC 2110
USDOC WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE ENEMY. SABOR PRESIDENT STIPE MESIC DEFENDED THE LAW BECAUSE IT APPLIES ONLY TO THOSE WHO WERE "MISLED," NOT TO CRIMINALS.

¶4. ALL CROATIAN DAILIES FRONT-PAGED THE ISSUE, AND A NUMBER FEATURED EDITORIALS EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE LEGISLATION SINCE IT WAS RUSHED THROUGH. ONE DAILY PUBLISHED A POLL SEPTEMBER 28 IN WHICH ABOUT 55 PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS SUPPORTED THE AMNESTY LAW, NEARLY 30 PERCENT WERE AGAINST, AND ABOUT 15 PERCENT WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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SECOND SESSION OF CROATIAN DEFENSE COUNCIL

¶5. ON SEPTEMBER 26, THE CROATIAN DEFENSE COUNCIL HELD ITS SECOND SESSION IN ZAGREB. THE AGENDA INCLUDED THE TUDJMAN-IZETBEGOVIC ADDENDUM TO THE CROATIA/B-H FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION, THE ARMY'S ROLE IN PEACETIME, CROATIA'S BORDER PROBLEMS WITH SLOVENIA, AND INTERNAL SECURITY IN THE FACE OF TERRORIST AND PARAMILITARY ACTIONS. THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHED A COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE WITH B-H LEADERS IN ORDER TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES, RESTRAIN AGGRESSION AGAINST B-H, AND RESTORE PEACE.

- RETURN OF REFUGEES TO THE PINK ZONE OF SECTOR SOUTH

¶6. FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT DECISION TO STRIP SOME INDIVIDUALS OF REFUGEE STATUS, SIBENIK MUNICIPAL LEADERS ORDERED DISPLACED PERSONS (CROATS) FROM THE SKRADIN REGION AND THE DRNIS DISTRICT TO LEAVE HOTELS IN SIBENIK AND VODICE AND RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. THIS IS THE FIRST GROUP SO AFFECTED.

¶7. MEANWHILE, UNPROFOR REPRESENTATIVES IN SECTOR SOUTH ASSERTED THAT THE PROBLEM IN THE PINK ZONE IS THE DISARMAMENT OF PARAMILITARY FORMATIONS AND THE "KRAJINA" MILITIA. UNPROFOR IS CONCENTRATING ON UNCLASSIFIED

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VILLAGES AROUND PERUCA, DRNIS, AND ZEMUNIK. THE
NEED TO CLEAR APPROXIMATELY 60,000 MINES IS ALSO
DELAYING THE SAFE RETURN OF DISPLACED PERSONS TO THE
PINK ZONE IN THIS AREA-

ETHNIC CLEANSING CONTINUES IN BARANJA

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USIA WASHDC 2111
USDOC WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
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18. IN THE LAST 10 DAYS, 200 CROATS AND HUNGARIANS
HAVE BEEN EXPelled FROM BARANJA IN SECTOR EAST--MOST
OF THEM FROM THE AREA BETWEEN BELI MANASTIR AND
HUNGARY. SERBIAN AUTHORITIES IN BARANJA HOPE THIS
WILL PREVENT THE ANNOUNCED RETURN OF CROATIAN
REFUGEES TO THIS TERRITORY. DURING THE LAST 15
DAYS, 11 PERSONS WERE ALSO KILLED IN BARANJA.

SABOR CALLS FOR MOVEMENT ON PRIVATIZATION
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19. DURING LAST WEEK'S SABOR SESSION, THE GOVERNMENT
ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS PREPARING A LAW THAT WILL BREAK
APART THE STATE-OWNED ENERGY MONOPOLY "INA." THE
GOVERNMENT WILL KEEP MAJORITY CONTROL OVER THE
EXPLOITATION OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS ALTHOUGH OTHER
INVESTORS WILL STILL BE ABLE TO BUY SHARES.

10. MEANWHILE, THE AGENCY FOR RESTRUCTURING AND DEVELOPMENT OF CROATIA HAS ISSUED 600 DECISIONS ABOUT THE PRIVATIZATION OF OTHER REMAINING GOVERNMENT-OWNED ENTERPRISES. THE ENTIRE WORTH OF ALL THESE ENTERPRISES AMOUNTS TO 3.2 BILLION MARKS, AND THEY EMPLOY 49,527 WORKERS. ABOUT HALF OF THE SHARES WERE BOUGHT BY WORKERS IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT FIRMS (THE CANDY ENTERPRISE "KRAS" AND THE SHIPYARD "ULJANIK" IN PULA). PRIVATIZATION EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE BECAUSE FEWER THAN ONE-FOURTH OF ELIGIBLE FIRMS HAVE BEEN SOLD OFF THUS FAR. TO ACCELERATE THE PROCESS, ENTERPRISES WILL ALSO BE OFFERED TO FOREIGN PURCHASERS-

THREE TONS OF EXPLOSIVES AND ARMS FOUND IN HSP SEAT

11. ON SEPTEMBER 26, A COURT-ORDERED SEARCH OF THE ULTRA-RIGHTIST CROATIAN PARTY OF RIGHTS (HSP) HEADQUARTERS UNCOVERED THREE TONS OF EXPLOSIVES AND ARMS IN DOWNTOWN ZAGREB NEAR THE RAILWAY STATION. THE SEARCH TOOK PLACE AS HSP LEADER DOBROSLAV PARAGA

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AND HIS LAWYER LOOKED ON. PARAGA TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE SEARCH WAS IN REVENGE FOR HIS CRITICISM OF THE AMNESTY LAW.

WIDE COVERAGE OF US EFFORTS TO UNCOVER CRIMES IN B-H

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USDOC WASHDC
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¶12. OVER THE WEEKEND, ALL LOCAL PAPERS GAVE WIDE COVERAGE TO THE LATEST U.S. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CRIMES IN B-H. THE PRESS HIGHLIGHTED THE U.S. SUBMISSION TO THE UN OF A LIST OF 3,000 MUSLIM MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN KILLED IN SERB PRISON CAMPS NEAR BRCKO AS WELL AS WASHINGTON'S CALL FOR THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ESTABLISH A COMMISSION ON WAR CRIMES IN B-H.

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